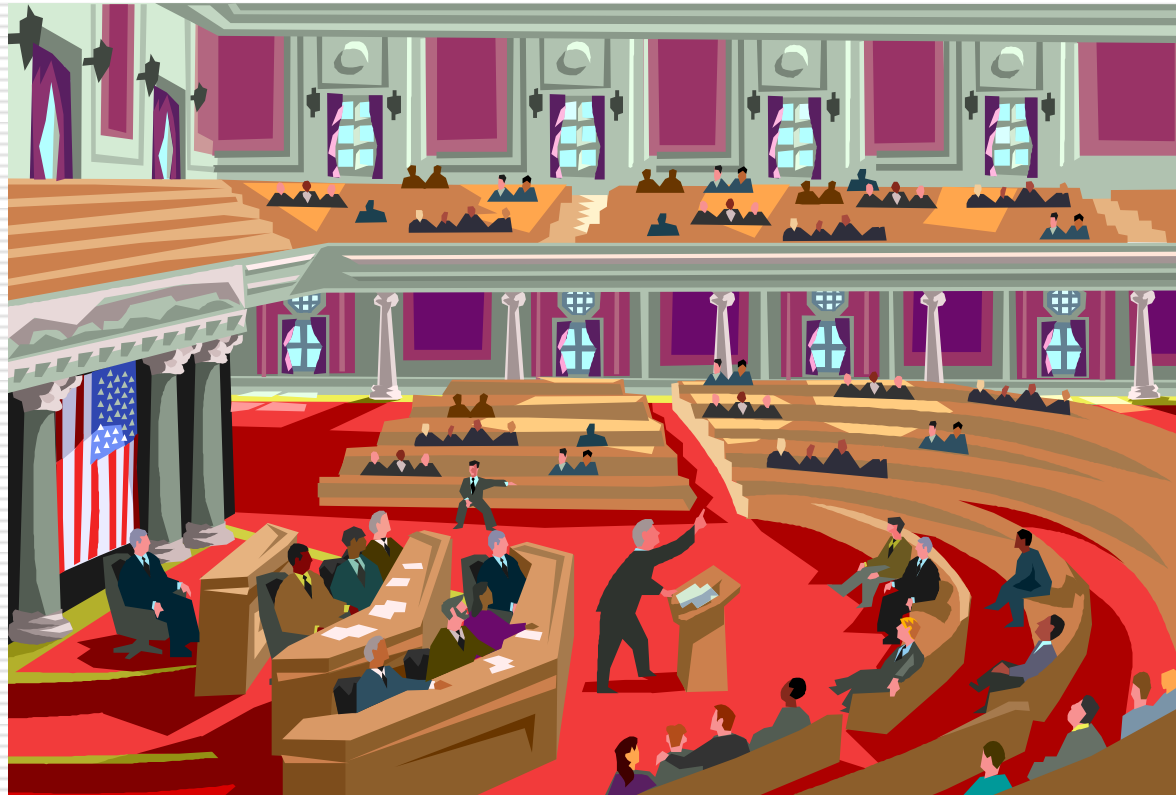


# The Legislative Branch

## Article I

---



# The U.S. Congress

---

Bicameral (2 branches)

Senate

- 100 members
- Six years



House

- 435
- 2 years
- Reapportioned after each census



# Congressional Duties

---

- ❑ Make the Laws
- ❑ Representatives of their constituents



# Powers of Congress – Article 1

---

- Raise and collect taxes
  - Borrow money
  - Regulate commerce
  - Set laws for Naturalization and Bankruptcy
  - Coin Money
  - Punish counterfeiting
  - Post office
  - Copyrights and patents
  - Set up courts
  - Declare war
  - Establish the military and National guard
  - Make rules and allot funds for the military and National guard
  - Punish pirates
  - Run Washington D.C. and all federal property
  - Elastic clause- implied power
-

# ELASTIC CLAUSE

---

- ❑ The necessary and proper clause gives Congress the power to make laws “necessary and proper” to carry out the delegated duties
  - ❑ Also known as the ‘elastic clause’ it stretches the power given Congress
-

# House of Representatives

---

□ Term: 2 years

□ Qualifications

- 25 years old
- 7 years as a U.S. citizen
- Resident of represented state



# House of Representatives

---

- Number of representatives: 435
  - Speaker of the House – Paul Ryan
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> in line of succession
  - Decides the committees each member will serve on
  - Decides the order in which bills will be heard



# House of Representatives

---

- Special Powers of the House of Representatives
    - All money (appropriations) bills start here
    - Select the President in an Electoral College tie
    - Write the article of impeachment against high ranking officials
-



# Senate

---

- Term of office: 6 years
  
  - Qualifications:
    - 30 years old
    - 9 years a citizen of the U.S.
    - Resident of the represented state
-

# Senate

---

- ❑ Number of Senators: 100
- ❑ Head of the Senate: U.S. Vice President – Michael Pence
- ❑ Power: Decides committee members and order bill are debated.



# Senate

---

## □ Special Powers

- Approves all treaties
  - Approves all appointments
  - Chooses the Vice President in an Electoral College tie
  - Acts as the jury in all trials of impeachment
-

## Privileges and Compensation of Congress members:

---

Salary \$193,000 per year

Medical and dental benefits

Free office, parking, and trips to home state

**Franking privilege**- free postage on all mail to constituents

---

## Privileges and Compensation of Congress members:

---

### Immunity or legal protection:

Cannot be sued of anything they say or write while carrying out their duties

Cannot be arrested for minor offenses while Congress is in session

May not hold other political office at the same time

---

# Who are your Senators?

---

## Bob Casey

- Born in Scranton, PA
- Resides in Scranton, PA
- Up for re-election this month – in office since 2007



## Pat Toomey

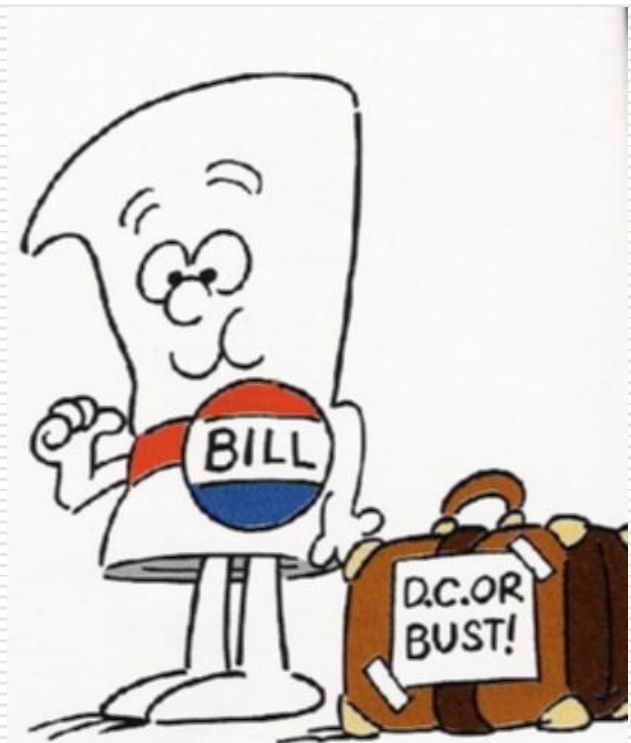
- Born in Providence, RI
- Resides in Zionsville, PA
- Has been in office since 2011



# How Does a bill becomes a law?

---

<http://youtu.be/tyeJ55o3EI0>



# Steps of a Bill

---



- 1) A Member of Congress introduces the Bill
- 2) The Bill goes to a Committee
- 3) The Bill is debated by either the Senate or the House
- 4) If Bill is passed it goes to the other Chamber – if not it DIES!
- 5) After Bill has been voted on in BOTH Chambers if is is approved...
- 6) The Bill is sent to the President who can either approve – it becomes LAW – or he can VETO it, which then goes back and starts all over again... Or 2/3 of Congress can override the Pres!





---

## Health Policy

Advocacy is one of the strategic issues identified in ANNA's Strategic Plan. ANNA works closely with partners in the kidney and nursing communities to raise awareness about kidney disease and to educate federal policymakers about the vital role nurses play in patient care.

ANNA coordinates activities such as the [Kidney Disease Awareness and Education Initiative](#), the [Health Policy Workshop](#), and [Virtual Lobby Day](#) to provide opportunities for members and legislators to learn about health policy and issues that affect nursing practice in general and nephrology nursing practice in particular. ANNA maintains the [ANNA Legislative Action Center](#) so that members can communicate quickly and easily with their elected representatives about issues that affect nephrology nursing practice. In addition, ANNA develops [Position Statements](#) on issues important to nephrology nurses and their patients and provides [resources and tools](#) to assist members in their advocacy efforts.

---

---

## **Ask Your Senators and Representative to Support Funding for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs**

The Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs at Health Resources and Services Administration provide the largest source of federal funding for nursing education. Increased federal funding for the Title VIII programs will help recruit and educate the next generation of our nurses. Please take action today and ask your Senators and Representative to support robust funding for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs

---

---

## Ask Your Senators and Representative to Support the *Living Donor Protection Act of 2017*

The *Living Donor Protection Act of 2017 (H.R. 1270)* would prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage or otherwise discriminating against living donors giving the gift of an organ. The legislation was introduced by Representatives Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-WA) in the House.

Please take action today and ask your Member of Congress to cosponsor H.R. 1270 and encourage your Senator to support the reintroduction of companion legislation

---

---

## **Ask Your Representative to Support the Chronic Kidney Disease Improvements in Research and Treatment Act of 2017 (H.R. 2644)**

Currently, more than 678,000 Americans live with kidney failure, known as End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). The only treatment available is a kidney transplant or dialysis. Due to the limited number of kidneys available for transplantation, most individuals with ESRD receive dialysis treatments. The overwhelming majority of people with kidney failure, regardless of their age, rely on Medicare for their dialysis treatments.

The Chronic Kidney Disease Act of 2017 (H.R. 2644) remedies this issue by addressing gaps in critical research for those with chronic kidney disease (CKD), empowering patient decision making and choice, and improving patient care and quality outcomes. The bill aims to improve outcomes for patients with CKD living with comorbidities, including diabetes and hypertension, by incentivizing health care providers to promote broader access to care in both underserved and rural communities. The bill would also expand care options by guaranteeing Medigap coverage to all ESRD beneficiaries. The Chronic Kidney Disease Act of 2017 was introduced by Representatives Tom Marino (R-PA), John Lewis (D-GA), and Peter Roskam (R-IL) in the House.

Please take action today and ask your Member of Congress to cosponsor H.R. 2644 and encourage your Senator to support the reintroduction of companion legislation.

---

## **Ask Your Senators and Representative to Support Funding for Biomedical Research and Patient Safety**

Adequate Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 funding for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is essential to the Institute's ongoing innovative research projects on Chronic Kidney Disease and End Stage Renal Disease. Please take action today and ask your Senators and Representative to support robust funding for NIDDK, NINR, and AH

---

---

## **Ask Your Senators and Representative to Support the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 959/S. 1109)**

The authorization for the nation's Nursing Workforce Development Programs is set to expire. These programs provide critical grant funding to support the recruitment, education, and retention of America's nursing workforce and address our nursing shortage.

The ***Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017 (H.R. 959/S. 1109)*** would reauthorize the programs through Fiscal Year 2022. The legislation was introduced by Senators Richard Burr (R-NC), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), and Susan Collins (R-ME) in the Senate and by Representatives Dave Joyce (R-OH) Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), Doris Matsui (D-CA), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Patrick Meehan (R-PA), and Kathy Castor (D-FL) in the House.

Please take action today and ask your Senators and Representative to cosponsor [H.R. 959](#) and [S. 1109](#)

---

---

## **Take Action to Improve Access to Home Health Care Services**

### **Ask Your Senators and Representative to Support the *Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2017* (S. 445/H.R. 1825)**

Currently, Medicare does not allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to certify patient eligibility for home health care services. This is an unnecessary barrier to care that also increases Medicare costs.

The ***Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act of 2017* (S. 445/H.R. 1825)** addresses this issue by authorizing nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, and physician assistants as eligible health care professionals who can certify home health care services under Medicare. The legislation was introduced by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Ben Cardin (D-MD) in the Senate and by Representatives Chris Collins (R-NY-27), Janice Schakowsky (D-IL-09) in the House.

Please take action today and ask your Senators and Representative to cosponsor S. 445 and H.R. 1825

---

# So what can you do?

---

- Go to ANNANURSE.ORG and click on Health Policy
- Next, Click on Take Action! Congress Web
- Review Current Action Actions Items and then Act!
- If you do not know who your representative is – now worries there is a link for that too!

Simple as that!

---